

consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have to admit I'm a little surprised the Administration has proposed an inadequate proposal to address our long-term energy needs. After all, both the President and Vice President have extensive experience in the energy sector. Quite frankly, I'd think they'd be a little more creative in their vision of America's future.

After all, a national energy policy is supposed to be predicated on the assumption that we need to increase supplies to mitigate demand. And to some degree, the Administration's plan is geared toward that end. However, given their experience in the energy sector, we ought to expect that.

But the cold hard fact is that the Administration sees drilling and mining as our only way to address our predicament. Personally, I disagree with the Vice President—conservation isn't a personal virtue. It's not only a proven method to increase energy supplies, but the costs to the taxpayer to fund research in this field is a drop in bucket compared to the huge taxpayer-funded subsidies this legislation bestows on traditional industries.

Unfortunately, instead of debating a reasonable and prudent legislation, we have forfeited that option. Instead of making tough choices, we have before us a bill that too heavily focuses on oil, coal, and nuclear energy. This Administration simply isn't worried about giving equal consideration to promoting and encouraging energy efficiency, renewable energy, and conservation.

That's unfortunate for a variety of reasons. Not only does it defy common sense, but it defies a Department of Energy report issued last November demonstrating increased efficiency and renewable energy can meet 60 percent of the nation's need for new electric power plants over the next 20 years. Yet the recommendations in the report are nowhere to be found in this legislation.

Moreover, this bill grants billions in new tax breaks for the oil and coal industries—all of this in the wake of record profits for industry and record-high energy bills for consumers. Why are we providing "royalty relief" to the oil industry when, as the Wall Street Journal recently reported, the industry currently has more money than it can manage to spend? Why do they need royalty relief when they are making billions of dollars in profits from oil that is pumped from public lands and are more financially stable than ever before?

Finally, in this bill is a provision that authorizes oil production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). According to proponents of this provision, we need to drill in ANWR as a solution to our energy crisis.

Unfortunately, facts are stubborn, and the truth is we could have done more to lower our dependence on foreign oil by passing the Boehler/Markey amendment that would have increased fuel efficiency in SUV's than we could ever get from pumping every drop of oil from the coastal plain in ANWR. For a bill designed to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, it seems strange to me that the sponsors of this bill would object to raising gas mileage standards. Doing so is not only completely feasible, but once completely implemented this step would reduce our oil consumption by hundreds

of millions of barrels a year. But the amendment failed and again we regress.

As such, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill and let's work to create a comprehensive energy bill that is truly one for the 21st Century.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. WATTS. Mr. Chairman, the House of Representatives today is considering a comprehensive energy strategy to provide clean, affordable and available energy to all Americans. The president has put forth a sound initiative to meet our energy needs after eight years of neglect by the previous Administration. The House today is considering a forward-looking plan that confronts the energy crunch head-on and offers real solutions to our energy shortage, volatile prices and our dependent on foreign oil.

The Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) Act is a balanced approach of conservation and production. It is good for the economy, as it will create jobs. It's no wonder the AFL-CIO and Teamsters' unions have thrown their support to our ideas. They, like many working Americans, know the value and importance of domestic energy production.

The SAFE Act helps modernize our aging energy infrastructure. In California, which has faced some of the most severe energy shortages in the country this year, they went without a new power plant for nearly twenty years. Playing catch-up should not be considered an energy strategy. We need 38,000 miles of new natural gas pipelines to move enough fuel to supply our energy needs. The SAFE Act will look ahead to the future and plan for the energy needs of today and tomorrow.

We should not wait for another crisis to formulate an energy plan. The time is now to correct the mistakes of the past and lay down sensible groundwork for the future. Reliable, affordable and environmentally clean energy should be first and foremost on our agenda. I urge the House to pass the SAFE Act.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diver-

sity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Chairman, only a few short months ago, the members of this House passed, one of the largest tax cuts in over a decade. Now here we are again, debating an energy bill that is as fiscally irresponsible. Just two days ago, the U.S. Treasury announced that it will be forced to borrow \$51 billion to pay for the tax rebate checks, instead of paying down the debt as previously planned. The New York Times also cited the Bush Administration as saying that the surplus for this fiscal year could fall by \$120 billion below the January estimate. No matter how we slice it, the fact remains that the U.S. Government simply doesn't have enough surplus funds to pay for the recently passed tax cut as well as the tax breaks contained in H.R. 4.

Furthermore, H.R. 4 does little to solve America's long-term energy challenges. Its primary focus is on developing non-renewable fuel sources, such as oil, natural gas, and coal, with a lesser emphasis on energy conservation and renewables. H.R. 4 gives over \$33 billion to energy companies in the form of tax breaks, all at taxpayer expense. About two-thirds of this tax break goes to oil and gas companies whose profits are at all-time record highs and some of whom have so much surplus cash they haven't yet figured out how to spend it all.

From 1999 to 2000, profits for the five largest U.S. oil companies rose 146%, from \$16 billion to \$40 billion. Exxon-Mobil reported yearly profits of \$17.7 billion. A July 30, 2001, Wall Street Journal article reported that, "Royal Dutch/Shell Oil said it was pumping out about \$1.5 million in profit an hour and sitting on more than \$11 billion in the bank." Even personal salaries for energy executives have skyrocketed. Yearly compensation for executives at the largest energy companies selling power to California rose an average of 253%, with one top executive collecting over \$100 million alone. With unprecedented increases in oil company profits, the industry clearly does not need financial assistance from Uncle Sam.

Not only is H.R. 4 fiscally unsound, but its provisions allowing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) reflect an utter disregard for the preservation of America's last remaining untouched wilderness. ANWR is a pristine region, teeming with a wide variety of plant and animal species. To believe that we could drill in ANWR without causing irreversible environmental damage is, at best, overly optimistic. As recently as last month, a corroded pipeline in an Alaskan oil field erupted, causing 420 gallons of crude oil to spill onto Alaskan tundra. This spill is but one of many that have occurred in the 95% of Alaska's North Slope that has already been opened to oil development.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, ANWR contains about 3.2 to 5.2 billion barrels of economically recoverable crude oil. Since the U.S. consumes about 19 million barrels of oil daily, or almost 7 billion barrels of oil annually, even with drilling at top efficiency, the coastal plain would only supply about 2% of America's oil demand. Additionally, if the total amount of oil in this area could be extracted all at once and the ANWR oil was used as the primary oil supply for the U.S., it would only last about 6 to 8 months. Destroying our environmental treasures in search of a quick fix to our energy needs is not the right course of action.